

with the United States in every major international conflict of the 20th century. In the Balkans, Greece has played a steady hand of democracy in the face of regional unrest and instability.

Now, in the wake of September 11, Greece again stands firm with the United States. Our efforts in the war against terror would not be as successful without the continued assistance from our allies in Greece. Greece's role as a stable democracy and key NATO ally is critical as the international community fights against global terrorism.

On this special occasion, I commend and thank the Greek people for their spirit and their ongoing pursuit of peace. To Greece, a free and democratic ally: "Cronia polla hellas".

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, on March 25th, Greece celebrates its 181st year of independence. I am here tonight to praise a society that represents, in a historical sense, the origins of what we call Western culture, and, in a contemporary sense, one of the staunchest defenders of Western society and values. There are many of us in Congress, on both sides of the spectrum, who are staunchly committed to preserving and strengthening the ties between Greek and American people. I would particularly like to thank the co-chairs of the Hellenic Caucus, Congressman BILIRAKIS from Florida, and Congresswoman MALONEY from New York for their fine leadership and their tireless efforts to strengthen the ties between our two countries.

Just two years after the Greek people began the revolution that would lead to their freedom, one of our predecessors in this Chamber, Massachusetts Congressman Daniel Webster, referring to the 400 years during which the Greeks were ruled by the Ottoman Empire, observed, "These Greek people, a people of intelligence, ingenuity, refinement, spirit, and enterprise, have been for centuries under the atrocious and unparalleled Tartarian barbarism that ever opposed the human race."

The words Congressman Webster chose then to describe the Greek people—intelligence, ingenuity, refinement, spirit, and enterprise—are as apt today as they have ever been.

In the years since, Americans and Greeks have grown ever closer, bound by ties of strategic and military alliance, common values of democracy, individual freedom, human rights, and close personal friendship.

The qualities exhibited by the nation of Greece, Madam Speaker, are a reflection of the strong character and values of its individual citizens. The United States has been greatly enriched as many sons and daughters of Greece made a new life in America. They, and their children and grandchildren, have enriched our country in countless ways, contributing to our cultural, professional, commercial, academic, and political life.

The timeless values of Greek culture have endured for centuries, indeed for millennia. As Daniel Webster noted, 400 years of control by the Ottoman Empire could not overcome the Greek people's determination to be free. But, I regret to say, Madam Speaker, to this day, the Greek people must battle against oppression. For almost 27 years now, Greece has stood firm in its determination to bring freedom and independence to the illegally occupied nation of Cyprus.

Given instability around the world, now is a good time to heal the wound in Cyprus that

has poisoned the relations between Greece and Turkey for so many years.

I am concerned, however, that Turkey is once again not negotiating in good faith. Over the years, I have become quite familiar with the Turkish side's well-known negotiation tactics. The Turkish side agrees to peace negotiations on the Cyprus problem only for the purpose of undermining them once they begin and then blames the Greek Cypriots for their failure.

The time has come for Denktash to realize his demands for recognition of a separate state are not acceptable. The framework has already been laid by the United Nations Security Council's Resolutions establishing a bizonal, bicomunal federation with one single international personality and one single citizenship.

Like their forefathers who were under the control of a hostile foreign power for four centuries, the Cypriot people hold fast in defiance of their Turkish aggressors with every confidence that they will again be a sovereign nation. They will. And the United States will be by their side in both the fight to secure that freedom and the celebration to mark the day when it finally arrives.

I will continue to work with my colleagues here in Congress to ensure that the United States government remains on the right side of this issue—because there is no gray area when it comes to this conflict.

In closing I want to congratulate the Greek people for 181 years of independence and thank them for their contributions to American life.

INTRODUCTION OF CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about a resolution which I have had drafted and will be introducing very shortly, and I hope my colleagues will join in supporting. I would like to read it tonight. It is a resolution supporting the people of Iran:

"Concurrent resolution, expressing the sense of Congress in support of the people of Iran and their legitimate quest for freedom, economic opportunity, and friendship with the people of the United States.

"Whereas, the first day of spring, celebrated by millions worldwide as Nowruz, the Persian Iranian New Year, symbolizes renewal, birth and new beginnings;

"Whereas, the people of the United States respect the Iranian people and value the contribution that Iran's culture has made to the world civilization over three millennia;

"Whereas, the United States recognizes the legitimate aspiration of the Iranian people for democratic, civil, political and religious rights and the rule of law;

"Whereas there exists a broad-based movement and desire for political change in Iran that represents all sec-

tors of Iranian society, including youth, women, students, military personnel and religious figures and that is pro-democratic, seeking freedom and economic opportunity;

"Whereas, the Iranian people have increasingly expressed their frustration at the slow pace of reform while still pursuing nonviolent change in their society;

"Whereas, in four consecutive elections the Iranian people have opted for nonviolent reform;

"Whereas, following the tragedies of September 11, 2001, thousands of Iranians filled the streets spontaneously and in solidarity with the United States and the victims of the terrorist attacks; and

"Whereas, the people of Iran deserve the support of the American people.

"Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, that the Congress of the United States expresses its heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the courageous people of Iran for their brave expressions of support following the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States;

"Two, recognizes and supports the people of Iran in their daily struggle for democracy, reform, human rights, economic prosperity and the rule of law;

"Three, makes a clear distinction between the peace-loving people of Iran, endowed with a rich culture and history and the unelected officials of Iran; and

"Four, urges the President of the United States to:

"A, engage and support the people of Iran in their legitimate aspiration for freedom and democracy;

"B, to continue to pursue areas of common interest with the people of Iran while taking an uncompromising stance on terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, and the human rights of Iranian citizens; and

"C, to use available diplomatic means to support the Iranian people's demand for an immediate release of all political prisoners and for the removal of the ban on the freedom of the press."

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important resolution. We need to send a clear message that we stand with the freedom-loving people of Iran.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, in the memory of our former beloved colleague, Claude Pepper of Florida, who fought at our side in 1938 to preserve the Social Security system, I rise this evening to make my remarks.

I want to talk about fiscal responsibility, responsibility to our Nation, responsibility to the future, responsibility to our children, responsibility to our senior citizens.